

# IOM Bangladesh: Rohingya Refugee Crisis Response

## External Update

2 – 8 March 2018



### 884,000

Rohingya Population in Cox's Bazar

### 671,000

New Rohingya Arrivals since 25 August 2017  
in Cox's Bazar

### 1.2 Million

People in Need in Cox's Bazar



To date, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and shelter upgrade orientation sessions have reached 7,525 households. ©IOM 2018/Mariel Kisliog

## Key Highlights

- ◆ Along with the distribution of **14,254 Upgrade Shelter Kits (USKs)**, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and shelter upgrade orientation sessions have been provided to 7,525 families. Other **IOM monsoon preparation activities** are summarized on page 3.
- ◆ In Leda, Uchiprang and Shamlapur, the Para Development Committees (PDC) continue to be engaged in **mobilizing manpower from host communities and refugees to participate in Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) as cash for work labourers**. During the reporting period, a total of 762 cash for work labourers were mobilized in the three locations. Under the supervision of IOM technical staff, they have been involved in multiple work such as **building stair cases, walking paths and bamboo bridges as well as cleaning and improving drainage systems**.
- ◆ To expand health services, IOM has started the **construction of multiple facilities**. In Zones WW, ZZ and ZA, two Health Posts and two Primary Healthcare Centres should be shortly completed. In Madhurchara AA, Burmapara and Balukhali Makeshift MM, tenders were allocated and the construction of facilities will commence shortly.

## Situation Overview

Since 25 August 2017, an estimated **671,000** Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh fleeing violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, increasing the total Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar to over **884,000**. New arrivals are living in spontaneous settlements with an increasing need of humanitarian assistance—including shelter, food, clean water, and sanitation.

Additionally, with the rainy season fast approaching, there is an urgent need to continue **strengthening preparedness measures** and **raising awareness among the refugee population regarding potential landslide and flood risks**.

In order to respond to these risks collectively and comprehensively, **IOM continues to work closely with the Government of Bangladesh and the humanitarian**

**community**. IOM and its partners continue to scale up operations to respond to the needs of new arrivals, existing Rohingya, and affected host communities.



View of Kutupalong Balukhali Expansion Site. ©IOM 2018/Mariel Kislig

## Voices of Refugees

In the past six months more than 671,000 Rohingya refugees escaped violence in Myanmar by fleeing into Bangladesh. IOM, other agencies and the Bangladesh authorities support them on the ground.

But it is the refugees' own resilience that shines through when they share their stories of life in the world's biggest refugee camp...



### Pormin

Pormin, 19, was pregnant when she fled Myanmar. Now she's raising her baby alone in the world's biggest refugee camp.

Discover Pormin's story [here](#).

## IOM Response



### Monsoon Preparation

As Bangladesh's annual wet season approaches, IOM is also working to secure infrastructure and strengthen preparedness measures.

**To mitigate risks to shelters and individuals and be ready for the worst conditions :**

**14,254** families received Shelter Upgrade Kits (USKs)

**15,000** families most at risk are being messaged to relocate

**7,525** households received community training on shelter upgrade and risk reduction

**1,400** community mobilisers are conducting door to door awareness campaign on preparedness measures for the monsoon season

**650** refugees and local community members are being trained in first aid as well as search and rescue in emergency situations

**5** new emergency medical centres are being prepared

Key machinery is being placed across district for emergency works

### “Living on the Edge”

Click [here](#) to watch IOM short video on the monsoon preparation.



### Resilience and Environment Management

The recently established Resilience and Environment Management (REM) Unit oversees longer-term programming to complement the humanitarian response.

The REM Unit is currently working on a livelihoods project jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) that aims to **improve food and nutrition security for host community and refugee populations** in Cox's Bazar. To date, **500 farmers received agricultural training**. These 500 farmers are also part of the **newly formed Farmer Field School (FFS)**, a group-based learning system that brings together concepts and methods of agroecology, experimental cropping, and community development. Members of the FFS are divided into groups consisting of 5 to 10 farmers who meet weekly under the guidance of one of the 32 trained facilitators.

**Recently, the FFS groups received 72 mini-tillers, 72 high-efficiency irrigation pumps, and government-provided inputs (e.g. seeds, fertilizers).**

Additionally, an agreement was formed with the Bangladesh Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation also known as the Arannayk Foundation to **establish Grass and Shrub Nursery** in Cox's Bazar district in an **attempt to start reforestation**.

In coordination with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC), 25,000 refugee households were selected to receive **micro-gardening kits**. Another 25,000 kit recipients have been identified in the host communities through Community Agriculture Rehabilitation and Implementation Committees, using vulnerability as a criteria for final selection.



## Site Management & Site Development

In anticipation of the monsoon season, IOM has **relocated households identified to be in high-risk areas**. This week, IOM identified 101 households in Camp 9 as living in at risk of landslide and flash flood prone areas and will be prioritizing for relocation.

IOM has established Safety and Security Committees and has trained the members to build the **capacity of the community to respond to emergencies**. An initial list of 75 members of the committee in Camp 10 has been prepared, including 23 women volunteers. The 50-member final committee will be formed through a short interview with the members. Additionally, three committees were formed and trained in Leda and six in Uchiprang.



Cash for work labourers in Leda. ©IOM 2018/Mariel Kislig

In Leda, Uchiprang and Shamlapur, the Para Development Committees (PDC) continue to be engaged in **mobilizing manpower from host communities and refugees to participate in Quick Impact Projects (QiPs) as cash for work labourers**.



A road protection work was the first QiP in Leda. ©IOM 2018/Mariel Kislig

During the reporting period, a total of 762 cash for work labourers were mobilized in the three locations. Under the supervision of IOM technical staff, they have been involved in multiple work such as **building stair cases, walking paths and bamboo bridges as well as cleaning and improving drainage systems**. The very first QIP project in Leda — a road protection work to ensure that the main access road to the Camp does not erode — was handed over to the Army and the community this week.

Regarding Site Development activities, IOM has worked this week on the construction of **shelter plots to**



Topographical survey on army road. ©IOM 2018/Fanny Renard

**facilitate the relocation of 122 households and the arrival of 80 new households**. The Site Development Team has taken into account the recommendations from the recent training on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) organised by the Protection team of IOM and started constructing **steps using brick soling for the tread and bamboo for the riser, specifically designed to prevent women's dress fabric catching on the riser**.



## Health

IOM medical clinics and IOM-supported Government healthcare facilities continue reporting through the Early Warning, Alert, and Response System (EWARS) online platform. EWARS is designed to **improve disease outbreak detection in emergency settings**.

This week, **11,543 consultations occurred**, bringing the



*Sensitization on good health practices for patients waiting at IOM health center.*  
©IOM 2017/Olivia Heaton

total number of consultations from **25 August 2017 to 3 March 2018 to 252,797 (148,499 in Ukhia and 104,298 in Teknaf)**. In regards to **Mental Health and**



## Protection

In Cox's Bazar, IOM is responding to Gender Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection (CP), Counter Trafficking (CT), and general Protection issues.

This week, IOM responded to a total of **95 protection cases**, including: the identification of six persons as Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) through direct protection activities as well as over 20 newly arrived individuals at a heightened risk in need of shelter and specialized referral. Additionally, 47 Psychological First Aid (PFA) sessions were provided, and 22 health referrals were made.

To date, a total of **15,263 EVIs** have been identified, **4,379 individuals have been provided with PFA**, 1,890 individuals were facilitated with health referrals, and **37 Victims of Trafficking have been identified and assisted**.

With the recent arrival of over 2,400 individuals, IOM has been supporting relocations to Camp 17, 18 (Zone

**Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services, 4,487 people have received support** since the current influx began.

To expand health services, IOM has started the **construction of multiple facilities**. In Zones WW, ZZ and ZA, two Health Posts (HP) and two Primary Healthcare Centres (HPC) should be shortly completed. In Madhurchara AA, Burmapara and Balukhali Makeshift MM, tenders were allocated and the construction of facilities will commence shortly. The construction of **four temporary structures has begun in the south east of Ukhia** to house the Research Training and Management (RTM) International health teams. IOM will work in partnership with RTM International to conduct **assessments, strengthen the referral system as well as the community participation and community support systems**.

Finally, the Health unit is working with UNICEF, ICRC, MOAS, Medair, UNFPA and UNHCR on a **community preparedness plan** for the coming monsoon and cyclone season.

WW) and Camp 20. IOM has been working with other protection partners to integrate protection activities in the arrivals process, expanding the existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to ensure that there is more **seamless coordination around transferring households from one area to another**.

Preparations are under way to work with Site Management on the roll out of Safety and Security Committees to ensure a **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) lens on protection activities**. There is a need to strengthen protection engagement and support vulnerable populations prior to and during the monsoon season. Efforts are also underway to work closely with the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Adviser to strengthen access to **relevant and actionable information for persons at heightened risk**.



## Shelter/Non Food Items (NFIs)

IOM is coordinating the Shelter/NFI Sector

As part of its shelter upgrade activities to reduce disaster risks and to improve overall living conditions in the camps and makeshift settlements, IOM distributed this week **2,300 bamboo bundles** in Zones JJ, LL, SS and XX (Camps 8W, 9 and 18). Since the beginning of

**upgrades and household level site improvements** such as soil stabilization, slope protection, and drainage improvements — have reached **14,254 families**.

Along with the distribution of USKs, **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and shelter upgrade orientation sessions have been provided to 7,525 families**.

Additionally, **20 new volunteers and 15 carpenters** were trained on 'Shelter Upgrade and DRR' and 'Basic Guidance for Shelter Upgrade' this week.

Finally, IOM conducted a consultation with the community on the upcoming shelter upgrade and relocation plan in Unchiprang. The main concern raised during the discussion was that the **shelter kit was insufficient for large families**. IOM will run another round of meetings with the community and is planning to design a shelter for larger families.



Bamboo bundles in a distribution center. ©IOM 2018/Mariel Kislig

February 2018, Upgrade Shelter Kits (USKs) — which include materials and tools to **carry out simple shelter**



## Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation

A total of **110 Deep Tube Wells (DTWs)** have been completed since the influx began, serving an estimated **110,000 users**. The construction and installation of 141 DTWs is ongoing in Zones MM, NN, SS, XX, WW, JJ, TT, ZZ, and in host villages Chapotkhali, Dhakkin Pannasia, and Tolatoli. For zones without access to DTW such as zone MM, new arrivals reception centre (camp 10) and Unchiprang, **2,092,500 liters of water** have been trucked for refugees.

To date, **1,949 emergency latrines and mobile toilets** have been constructed, serving approximately **97,450 individuals** in Zones BB, SS, XX, WW, MM, RR, LL, QQ, AA, EE, Unchiprang, Shamlapur, and Hindu Para. The construction of 549 household and 27 community latrines is ongoing.

Additionally, **116 wash rooms have been constructed to date and are ready to use**, with 28 more currently under construction.

To enhance good hygiene practices, **1,392 Hygiene Kits were distributed this week bringing the total of kits distributed to 30,273**. In addition, **13,665 jerry cans and 220,021 bars of soap** have been distributed since August.

IOM is finalizing the mechanism for the distribution of WASH common pipeline supplies. Through this pipeline, IOM will be procuring hygiene top-up kits as well as aquatabs for 180,000 households.

Finally, the **drilling of pilot boreholes** at Leda is still ongoing. The casing was installed for the first borehole pilot and the development of the well is ongoing while waiting for pumping test. The second borehole drilling has reached a depth of 150 meters and casing is to be installed. The drilling for the third borehole has started, reaching 40m to date.



## Inter-Sector Coordination Group

IOM is hosting the sector based coordination structure for the Rohingya Crisis Response

The Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), hosted by IOM, is coordinating the overall Rohingya Refugee Crisis. ISCG facilitates timely, coordinated, needs-based, and evidence-driven humanitarian assistance for efficient use of resources and to avoid duplication, and produces regular Situation [Reports](#) and [4W maps and data](#). ISCG is working closely with the Sector lead agencies to finalize the Joint Response Plan 2018, expected to be released mid-March 2018.

## Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM) Round 8

**NPM Site Assessment Round 8 report** is now available [here](#).

Additional NPM products are available [NPM website](#). They include:

- ◆ NPM Site Assessment (SA) Master List
- ◆ NPM SA Needs Assessment Dataset
- ◆ NPM SA Site Profiles
- ◆ NPM SA Population Density Map

## IOM in the news

### 'We cannot keep everyone safe', UN warns as Rohingya brace for monsoon

Reuters (27 February 2018)

**London (Thomson Reuters Foundation)** – Aid agencies are reinforcing shelters, moving latrines and providing search and rescue training in the world's biggest refugee settlement in Bangladesh before monsoon rains strike in April, bringing deadly landslides and floods. Click [here](#) for the full article.

### Rohingya Muslims will soon face cyclones, monsoon in Bangladesh

NBC News (7 March 2018)

**Washington** – Refugees driven out of Myanmar by what the U.S. has called "ethnic cleansing" now face a new threat: the looming monsoon and cyclone season. Click [here](#) for the full article.

### Tackling Diphtheria in Bangladesh

In December 2017, an outbreak of diphtheria started to take hold in the sprawling Kutupalong refugee camp, near Cox's Bazar in southern Bangladesh. The camp is home to over 700,000 mainly Rohingya people, the majority of whom arrived there since August 2017, fleeing violence in neighbouring Myanmar. Read UKaid article [here](#).

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